

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**

Trust Land Management Division



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**Initial Proposal
Whitewood Pre-Commercial Thin
March 5th, 2019**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Swan Unit is proposing to pre-commercial thin on the following state-owned parcel:

Sec. 11, T23N, R18W & Sec. 27, T24N, R18W

The Whitewood pre-commercial thinning project is located on the Swan River State Forest in the Woodward and Whitetail Creek area, 9 miles southwest of Swan Lake, MT.

The primary objective is to reduce stocking levels within the project area to: reduce tree competition, reduce the threat of disease and insects, promote species diversity, increase growth and vigor of residual trees, and accelerate growth to a marketable size class.

This project will treat 96 acres of sapling and pole size timber. Stocking levels within these acres vary between 1,500 and 3,500 trees per acre. Stands will be thinned to 12-14 foot spacing or 220 -300 trees per acre. Vigorous, phenotypically superior trees are defined as crop trees and will be retained at the designated spacing. Trees greater than 6 inches at DBH will not be cut. Trees less than four feet tall will be retained to promote species diversity.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes and acreages are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted.

The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by **March 20th, 2019** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
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A-1 WHITEWOOD PRE-COMMERCIAL THIN VICINITY MAP

SWAN UNIT



